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# City calls HPOWER recycling

## But Councilman Djou says burning waste at HPOWER does not comply with the law

By Crystal Kua

<mailto:ckua@starbulletin.com?subject=http://starbulletin.com/2006/08/26/>

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's administration says it is complying with a city recycling law by burning waste paper and plastics.

But the law's sponsor, City Councilman Charles Djou, disputes that, noting the law was intended to recycle waste products, not get rid of them.

The ordinance passed earlier this year mandates that the city pick up at curbside two of five recyclable items by next July 1.

A city official says the city picks up newspapers and plastics curbside in regular trash pickup and burns those items at the city's HPOWER garbage-to-energy plant.

"When (the Council) put together that ordinance, they thought that in order to recycle like paper and plastic, the only way to recycle would be to separate them out ... and get them to someone who could recycle the paper and plastic to other paper products or other plastic products," said Eric Takamura, director

of the city Department of Environmental Services. "But when we recycle by sending it to HPOWER and combusting it and using the heat to produce electricity, we had a discussion that because that is a form of recycling, we're already doing curbside recycling for (plastic and newspaper)."

Takamura said the city currently picks up a third recyclable item -- green waste -- curbside in a separate automated collection and turns it into compost, which also fulfills the law. Now to fully comply with the law, the city need only decide which of the remaining two items -- glass and food waste -- to pick up, and come up with a plan on how to do it by the 2008 deadline.

Djou said he believes the intent of the new law was to mandate separate curbside pickup for the four items for recycling.

"I don't think there was any misunderstanding when we passed this bill," Djou said, "so I think they're going back on it. What they're talking about here now is something entirely different of what we passed."

Takamura, however, said the administration has never wavered from its position on burning plastics and newspapers at the waste-to-energy plant and turning them into electricity.

As a result, Djou introduced a resolution interpreting the law that "the recyclables collected through the city's curbside recycling program be collected, separated, recovered, and sold or reused as part of a process aimed at producing a marketable produce and not be incinerated at a waste-to-energy or other incineration facility."

The administration asked the Council Public Works and Energy Committee to defer taking action, and the committee did just that on Thursday.

"I don't think we had the misunderstanding, because we've always stated that waste-to-energy was a form of recycling," Takamura said.

Djou said, "I had to fight so incredibly hard to get curbside recycling mandated, and now we're switching up in the public and doing nothing.

"I think that's very disturbing and disappointing."

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# Measuring Recycling

## A Guide for State and Local Governments



nants, and prepared for final recycling. Examples include paper stock dealers and paper packers.

**PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate):** refers to a thermoplastic material used to manufacture plastic soft drink containers and rigid containers. PETE has a high melting point, is clear in its natural state, and has a relatively high density. (U.S. EPA, 1995c)

**Plastic:** refers to plastic containers and packaging made from various resins, including PETE, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, and PS. *Excludes* plastics in transportation (automobiles) and construction products (PVC piping). (U.S. EPA, 1996b)

**Plastic Processor<sup>1</sup>:** refers to an intermediate operating facility where recovered plastic products and materials are sorted, cleaned of contaminants, and prepared for final recycling. Examples include plastics handlers and plastics reclaimers.

**Plastics Handler:** refers to companies that prepare recyclable plastics by sorting, baling, shredding, granulating, and/or storing plastics until a sufficient quantity is on hand. (American Plastics Council, 1996)

**Plastics Reclaimer:** refers to companies that further process plastics after the handling stage by performing at least one of the following functions: washing/cleaning, pelletizing, or producing a new product. (American Plastics Council, 1996)

**Postconsumer Materials/Waste:** refers to recovered materials that have been used as a consumer item and are diverted from municipal solid waste for the purpose of collection, recycling, and disposition (aluminum beverage cans, plastic bottles, old newspapers, and yard trimmings). *Excludes* materials from industrial processes that have not reached the consumer, such as glass broken in the manufacturing process or overissues of newspapers and magazines. (U.S. EPA, 1994d, 1995c)

**PP (Polypropylene):** refers to a plastic polymer formed by linking propylene molecules. PP has good resistance to heat and is used in flexible and rigid packaging, film, and textiles. (U.S. EPA, 1995c)

**Preconsumer Materials/Waste:** refers to materials generated in manufacturing and converting processes, such as manufacturing scrap and trimmings/cuttings. Also includes print overruns, overissue publications (newspapers and magazines), and obsolete inventories. (U.S. EPA, 1995c)

**Print Overruns:** refers to a quantity of paper that is printed beyond the quantity specified. (Walden-Mott, 1981)

**Processors<sup>1</sup>:** refers to intermediate operators that handle recyclable materials from collectors and generators for the purpose of preparing materials for recycling (material recovery facilities, scrap metal yards, paper dealers, and glass beneficiation plants). Processors act as intermediaries between collectors and end users of recovered materials.

**PS (Polystyrene):** refers to a plastic polymer formed by linking styrene molecules. PS is used to make a variety of products including plastic cutlery and food containers. It is often used in its foamed state. (U.S. EPA, 1995c)

**PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride):** refers to the family of plastic copolymers, also known as vinyl. PVC is used to make products such as pipes, bottles, upholstery, and automotive parts. (U.S. EPA, 1995c)

**Recovery:** refers to the diversion of materials from the municipal solid waste stream for the purpose of recycling or composting. *Excludes* reuse and source reduction activities such as yard trimmings diverted to backyard (onsite) composting, the repair of wood pallets, and the refilling of beverage containers. (U.S. EPA 1996b)

**Recyclables:** refers to those materials recovered from the solid waste stream and transported to a processor or end user for recycling. (National Recycling Coalition, 1995)

**Recycling:** refers to the series of activities by which discarded materials are collected, sorted, processed, and converted into raw materials and used in the production of new products. *Excludes* the use of these materials as a fuel substitute or for energy production. (National Recycling Coalition, 1995)



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CRAIG T. KOJIMA /  
<mailto:CKOJIMA@STARBULLETIN.COM?subject=http://starbulletin.com/2006/08/26/>

A crosswalk at Akepo Lane and King Street, the scene of a fatal pedestrian accident yesterday, appears to have been painted over. There is a "no crossing" sign across the street.

# Elderly man is killed in

# Kalihi hit-and-run

## He was hit by a van on a faded crosswalk he used every day

By Robert Shikina and Nelson Daranciang

<mailto:rshikina@starbulletin.com?subject=http://starbulletin.com/2006/08/26/>

<mailto:ndaranciang@starbulletin.com?subject=http://starbulletin.com/2006/08/26/>

Every day, Thomas Laikupu crossed busy North King Street to get refreshments, his daughter-in-law, Melody Rosa, said.

Early yesterday at the same faded crosswalk that he always used, a van struck the 75-year-old Laikupu, who later died.

Police said Laikupu was crossing North King Street toward Mayor Wright Housing at 12:09 a.m. when the van hit him and left the scene. An ambulance took Laikupu to the Queen's Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

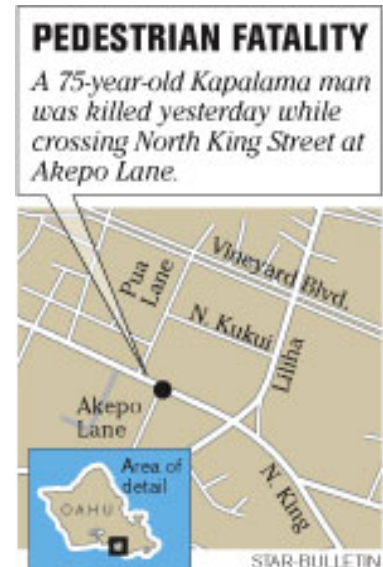
Witnesses told police the van was speeding. Police are looking for an older model, light-color van with possible front-end damage. "Cracked headlights and turn-signal lights," said Capt. Frank Fujii, Honolulu Police Department spokesman.

Laikupu was using an old crosswalk, just east of Akepo Lane, that had been painted over and is no longer in service.

City Department of Facility Maintenance Director Laverne Higa said the sidewalk was painted over in September 2004 per a work order from the Department of Transportation Services. Transportation engineers ordered it closed after receiving a complaint about its safety.

Rosa said the other crosswalks were too far away. "It's like a habit: You cross the same place," she said.

"The dad crosses the street every day in the same spot. Most of the people in that



building eat across the street, so they all cross over there," Rosa said.

Laikupu worked as a diver in his younger years and helped build the reef runway at the Honolulu Airport, Rosa said. After retiring, he worked as a lifeguard at the Natatorium.

"He's so friendly, like he just attracts people. Every day, you would see him walking with a different person, and you're not worried that he would get hurt," Rosa said.

### **Got info?**

Anyone who might have witnessed the crash or seen the van leaving the area is asked to call the HPD Traffic Investigation Division at 529-3499.

Originally from the Big Island, Laikupu came to Oahu in his early 20s and lived half his life in Waianae. He had lived on the ground floor of Island West Apartments, 607 N. King St., for five years, Rosa said.

"He liked to live on his own. He liked the downtown area; he liked the action down there," she said.

Laikupu used a cane of milo wood that a friend from Waikiki had carved for him, Rosa said.

Laikupu's three grandchildren, ages 2 to 4, called him Papa Kupu.

"One of them never like go school this morning. He was throwing a tantrum. He wanted to go see the grandpa," Rosa said.

He is also survived by a son, Thomas. The family plans to scatter Laikupu's ashes at the Natatorium. Services are still being planned.

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